

(b) and (c) The Task Force has categorised projects sector-wise on the basis of their likelihood of completion in the Ninth Plan and identified specific steps required to ensure their speedy execution. Projects of a total of 52310.2 MW have been identified by the Task Force of which 11868.2 MW is in the State Sector, 14069 MW in the Central Sector and 26373 MW in the Private Sector. The summary of important recommendations made by the Task Force on capacity addition during the Ninth Plan are given as under:

(i) Project will be divided among specific officers in the CEA who will inter-act with the State Governments/State Electricity Boards regularly to ascertain the status of these projects. Adequate funds be made available to the CEA for this purpose.

(ii) Projects, where intervention at the Government level is required, will be brought to the notice of the Ministry of Power so that immediate corrective measures are taken.

(iii) Bi-monthly meetings will be taken by Chairman, CEA in which large projects would be reviewed in-depth in the presence of the representatives of the concerned CPSUs/State Governments.

(iv) Department of Atomic Energy (DoAE) will be requested to have an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure completion of projects during the Ninth Plan. DoAE may also be requested to identify additional projects on which advance action can be initiated so as to yield benefits during the Tenth Plan and beyond.

(v) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas may be requested to constitute a group with representatives from CEA and Ministry of Power to review all ongoing power projects of the refineries as well as wheeling of their surplus power.

(vi) Special attention needs to be given for projects in the State Sector which are lying incomplete for want of adequate resources. Consultations may be held with the State Governments to see whether such projects can be completed speedily.

(vii) CPSUs such as NTPC, NHPC, THDC, NJPC and NEEPCO need to have shelves of projects on which advance action can be initiated straightway so that benefits are available in the Tenth Plan.

(viii) The policy framework for encouraging co-generation needs to be modified to obtain maximum capacity addition from this source.

(d) The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) for power sector is under finalisation by Planning Commission.

Closing of Ongoing Projects

187. SHRI SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to close down some ongoing projects in the country under various Departments and Ministries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total amount spent on them;

(c) if so, the extent to which they are incomplete;

(d) whether the Government propose to review these projects or implement any new projects in its place; and

(e) if so, the details of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) The Government has been reviewing the progress of implementation of ongoing projects from time to time. The projects which are making slow progress are reviewed by the Central Empowered Committee constituted by the government under the chairmanship of Member Secretary, Planning Commission.

(b) to (e) The Central Empowered Committee has recommended the following projects for closure/freezing of further expenditure. The final decision is yet to be taken by the Government.

Name	Expenditure upto 31.03.1997 (Rs. in crores)
(i) Koel Karo HEP	17.87
(ii) Farakka STPP III, NTPC	0.00
(iii) Kottur—Harihar New Railway Line	0.25
(iv) Goleti Longwall projects	3.90

Herbs in Assam

188. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been conducted with regard to availability of herbs in forests and hill areas of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any efforts have been made by the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants for meeting the Demand of herbs in international market and earning foreign exchange therefrom; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Circle was established in 1956. Since then scientists of the Botanical Survey of India engaged in research work on herbs of hilly areas of north-east India which includes the whole area of Assam also. Several research papers have already been published on herbs of Assam. A comprehensive account of Plants of Assam in the form of flora is under preparation.

(c) and (d) Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed agro and processing technologies for diverse medicinal and aromatic plants which have been made available to farmers for commercial exploitation. Its efforts have led to increased cultivation and processing of some medicinal and aromatic plants. Which besides meeting internal requirements are also exported, for example: Menthol Mint, which is now cultivated in about one lakh hectares in Uttar Pradesh producing about 9000 tonnes of oil valued at around Rs. 500 crore.

Reservation of Beds

189. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no reservation of beds for CGHS beneficiaries in Central Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to provide reservation of beds in such hospitals for CGHS beneficiaries or their family members;

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (e) As patients from the general

public alongwith CGHS beneficiaries take indoor treatment in Central Government hospitals, it would be difficult to reserve beds for CGHS beneficiaries in these hospitals since patients are admitted depending on the merit/urgency of their case irrespective of whether these patients are from the general public or are Central Government employees/pensioners covered under CGHS. However, the Nursing Home facility at Dr. R.M. Lohia Hospital are mainly provided to the entitled CGHS beneficiaries.

IRS-1D

190. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether PSLV-C1 rocket launched recently has successfully placed in orbit an operational remote sensing satellite IRS-1D;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon and the extent of success achieved how far it has placed India amongst the big powers with satellite launching facilities;

(c) whether the Prime Minister at a press conference following the launch declared that India would resist all attempts by any country to prevent it from transferring its achievements in key sectors like space-technology in defence; and

(d) if so, from which countries such resistance was perceived or pressures received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Significant milestone has been achieved by PSLV demonstrating capability to place a 1200 kg class IRS satellite into 817 km polar orbit on 29th September 1997. With this mission, apart from increasing the payload capability by 30 per cent from 922 kg of IRS P3 in the previous mission in March 96, several ground systems required for Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) such as common check-out facilities and propellant servicing facilities also have been validated. Improved first two stages have also been successfully flight proven. The experience gained in the previous flights has resulted in reducing the countdown time to 52 hours from about 72 hours earlier.

With this success, India becomes the seventh country possessing launch capability of 1200 kg polar synchronous